

## U.A. Resolution #26

### Petition to Renew Housing Amenities

[04/25/2021]

**Sponsored by:** Andrea Miramontes Serrano, Freshman Representative to the Student Assembly; Jacob Feit, Chair of The Campus Committee on Infrastructure, Technology, and the Environment

**Abstract:** Demand to renew outdated facilities in on-campus residences, specifically targeting communal kitchens and bathrooms.

**Whereas,** Cornell University is investing on building more modern housing facilities while having pre-existing residence halls with lacking or outdated installations; and

**Whereas,** Cornell University owned housing rates are more costly than apartment rentals, yet often do not provide better accommodations, as is the case of the older residence halls; and

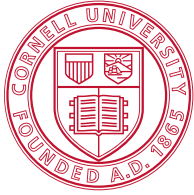
**Whereas,** frequented communal spaces constitute a part of the student's living environment, and whereas these highly contribute to the students' experiences; and

**Whereas,** regarding communal kitchens, the number of meal plans has decreased, and thus the dependency on cooking for source of food has incremented, and whereas even before the pandemic and in usual circumstances, students commonly cook as a recreational, community-fostering activity; and

**Whereas,** the Mental Health Review Final Report published in April 2020 identified student feedback suggesting that finances are a major source of stress, and whereas primary factor when dropping Cornell Dining's meal plan is not necessarily convenience but cost and the relative financial advantage of cooking one's own food; and

**Whereas,** said report also identified student feedback suggesting a desire for multicultural competency and further concluded that, "Progress in providing students with equitable access to and experience with the abundant offerings of the institution must accompany Cornell's progress in cultivating a more diverse student body;" and

**Whereas,** alongside with seeking inexpensive experiences, in Section B, the report also disclosed the need for promoting social connectedness and resilience, and whereas



## Cornell University University Assembly

Cornell University aims its public living centers to foster such qualities and experiences;  
and

**Whereas**, obsolete amenities are less likely to be used, therefore fail to facilitate student encounter or fail to host the development of said tight, diverse communities; and

**Whereas**, obsolete amenities and lack of enjoyable living spaces are also major factors of students' deciding to live off-campus; and

**Whereas**, in some cases the obsolescence of the kitchen equipment and amenities causes malfunction, and - for the common example of sinks – result in unpleasant incidents such as clogs and odors; and

**Whereas**, some residence halls also have obsolete bathrooms that could be renovated to improve students' living conditions and match the installations of the newer residences.

**Be it therefore resolved**, that Cornell University renew and re-emphasize the importance of communal amenities in its on-campus housing, particularly with regards to bathrooms and kitchens, with the additional task of reequipping the latter; and

**Be it finally resolved**, for future housing projects, more abundant and attractive communal spaces be strategically located to foster community growth and student encounter, likewise aiming for larger kitchens.

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE CAMPUS COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE, TECHNOLOGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT (4/25/2021)**

**No signature block is present until the resolution has been disposed of by the Assembly (Passed, Failed, Withdrawn, etc.) Then a block with the certifying member (customarily Chair/Vice-Chair) verifying the authenticity and vote tally of the resolution.**